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St. Johns, Oregon.

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RESOURCES:		LIABILITIES:	
Loans	$127,732.11	Capital Stock	$ 25,000.00
Furniture and fixtures	2,976.86	Surplus and undivided profits	2,553.22
Cash on hand and due from banks	72,389.65	Dividends unpaid	1,250.00
		Deposits	174,295.40
	$203,098.62		$203,098.62

IN the above square you will observe a tiny dot. Noticed it, didn't you? Now if YOU saw that little speck think of how all the rest of our readers noticed it. Then, if you, Mr. Businessman, had placed an attractive announcement of your wares, at correct prices, in that space, you'll have some idea that it would have brought you trade. Better try it next week.

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METEORIC BODIES.

Mineral Masses That Are Whirling Through Space.

The realms of space contain probably innumerable masses of solid iron or other minerals which are whirling along at an incalculable rate. Occasionally these masses come within a comparatively few miles of the earth's atmosphere, and then instead of crashing to the ground, carrying devastation in their paths, they suddenly become terrifically hot and melt away into an incandescent gas. This is what is going on when we see what is wrongly called a "shooting star." Stars do not shoot. The sudden flash we see is the result of the friction between the meteoric body and our air. The former travels at such a rate as to generate an enormous heat. Occasionally, however, solid masses do not become completely vaporized, but fall to the earth with a great force. A stone fell in 1855 on the coast opposite Zanzibar. It was picked up by some children herding cattle, and all the tribe gathered to anoint it with oil and ornament it with stuffs and pearls as a true divinity come from heaven. The missionary warnings were unheeded. One day the warlike Massai attacked the tribe and slaughtered them, whereupon the survivors lost faith in their fetich and sold it to the Munich museum.

At Wold Newton, in Yorkshire, England, a meteorite fell over a century ago. Scientists were only then seriously considering such falls. On a Sunday afternoon, Dec. 13, 1795, in misty weather during thunder and lightning at a distance suddenly there came a noise like an explosion. A farm servant was so near that he was struck by some of the earth thrown up by the stone as it plunged into the ground. It excavated a hole more than three feet in diameter and was found imbedded fast in the chalk rock.

This meteorite is about as big as a man's head and can be seen in the British museum. Aerolites pass with enormous speed across the vault of the heavens. As the aerolite falls its speed is greatly reduced as it passes through the ever thickening atmospheric strata until finally it descends to the earth.

Philosophy of a Clown.

The late Charles Bliss, the famous star of the Dan Rice circus—he was the original "human fly"—imputed his success to thoroughness. "Don't attempt a new trick," he said one day, "till you are a thorough master of it. The only way to succeed is to be so thorough in everything you undertake that failure is altogether an impossibility. If you are going, for instance, to be a stump speaker, if you are going to address a lot of farmers, don't talk farm unless you have studied it up. Don't be like a stump speaker I know who yelled at a crossroads meeting:

"'He who puts his hand to the plow must not turn back.'

"'Wot's he to do, then, when he gets to the end o' the furrer?' shouted a hired man in blue overalls."—Denver News.

Not Too Cold For Him.

The unconscious humor of the English peasantry is shown in a story told by the London Tribune. A Lady Bountiful was calling on a devoted old couple with such creature comforts as the doctor said were suitable for the old man, who was dying and being tenderly nursed by his consort. Entering the cottage, she saw the old dame leaning over the fire. "Ah, Susan," she said, "and how's John?"

"He be goan, mum; he be goan," muttered the old lady. "Leastways I can't say that for sartain sure, but he did seem a-gwine just now. But, there, it's that mortal cold up there that I had to come down to warm my hands."

Did the Dog Reason?

The late Duke of Beaufort, who was an excellent observer, notes in his diary how (he was hunting the hounds himself) the pack drove down to a wall and flashed over—all but Bachelor. This hound missed the scent as he reached the top of the wall and, standing there, waved his stern as if in thought. Then it seemed to flash across him, "If the fox has not crossed he must have turned short under the wall." So Bachelor dropped back into the road and, racing along, picked up the line.—T. F. Dale in Outing Magazine.

Not Guilty.

"Tommy," said the teacher reproachfully, "why didn't you take your hat off to me when you passed me yesterday?"

"I didn't have me hat on, ma'am," replied the boy.

"Don't tell me that. I saw it on your head."

"I know you seen me, but you didn't see me hat. That was me brudder's hat I had on."

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THE MELANCHOLY DANE.

Supposed Source of the Plot of Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

While Shakespeare no doubt wrote the tragedy of "Hamlet," as it is found today, he borrowed many of his data from an earlier writer, Saxo Grammaticus, a Danish historian who died about 1204. His writings were in Latin, and in Shakespeare's time they had not been translated into any modern language. The story is to be found in Belleforest's collection of novels, begun in 1564, and an English translation of it was published entitled 'The Hystorie of Hamblet, Prince of Denmarke." Horvendile in the novel is the name of Hamlet's father, Fengon that of his uncle and Geruth that of his mother. Fengon traitorously slays Horvendile and marries his brother's wife. In the second chapter Hamlet counterfeits the madman to escape the tyranny of his uncle. Through the machinations of his uncle he is tempted by a woman, the uncle thinking thereby to undermine the prince and find out whether his madness is counterfeited or not.

In the third chapter Fengon, the uncle, tries a second time to entrap Hamlet in politic madness and causes one of his councilors to be secretly hidden in the queen's chamber behind the curtains to hear what speeches pass between Hamlet and the queen. Hamlet kills him and thus escapes danger. In the fourth chapter Hamlet is sent to England by Fengon, with secret letters to have him put to death. While his companions sleep Hamlet counterfeits the letters "willing the king of England to put the two messengers to death." Here ends the resemblance between the history and the play. The Hamlet of the history returns to Denmark, slays his uncle, burns his palace, makes an oration to the Danes and is elected king. He goes back to England, kills the king of that country, returns to Denmark with two English wives and finally falls through the treachery of one of these ladies. This is the supposed source of the plot of Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

A Pardonable Excuse.

A Columbia university man who makes frequent use of foreign words and phrases in his talks and his literary products was under fire for this practice. The feeling among his antagonists was that the English language is a good enough means of expression. "Well," said the expert in word pictures, "to me a number of these foreign phrases have an interesting history which their use recalls. I plead guilty to a sentiment for just this kind of thing. Take the expression 'sub rosa.' Its English substitute is 'privately.' I prefer to think of the rose as an emblem of secrecy in Greece, and the custom which had one of these pretty flowers hung over the table where guests were entertained in token that nothing heard there was to be repeated; hence the expression 'sub rosa.'"

A Lively Court Scene.

They had a lively scene in a court in Algiers when thirty thieves were brought up for their sentences. The judge had just sentenced the prisoners when a notorious thief flung a boot at him. It hit the presiding judge squarely on the nose, making the blood spurt. This was a signal to the other prisoners, for immediately a storm of boots, caps and other articles hurtled through the air, and amid the confusion the band of thieves made a dash for liberty. The gendarmes had to draw their swords before order could be restored. All the prisoners were caught and lined up again before the judge, who gave them all three years more at hard labor for committing an outrage on the magistracy.

Persian Justice.

Professor Williams Jackson tells in his "Persia Past and Present" some stories illustrating character in the land of Omar Khayyam. One is of a man who, suffering from inflamed eyes, went to a horse doctor for treatment. The veterinary gave him some of the salve that he used on animals, and the man 'ost his eyesight. He then brought suit in court to recover damages. The judge, after weighing the evidence in the case, handed down his decision as follows: "There are no damages to be recovered. The man would never have gone to a veterinary if he had not been an ass!"

A Willing Witness.

To solemnize the ceremony of taking the oath Chinamen kill a cock. By another process they break a plate. The English habit is to kiss the Bible. The other day a widely traveled Chinaman in a Johannesburg court was asked what form of oath he preferred. He replied, "Allee samee, break-um-plateee, kill-um-cockee or smell-um-bookee, allee samee."

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COUNCIL

What Was Done at the Regular Meeting Tuesday Night

The municipal machinery continued to run smoothly and swiftly during the regular session of the city fathers Tuesday night, and as a consequence a short session and considerable business was the result.

The only hitch came when the ordinance taxing the poles and wires came up. This particular ordinance is familiarly known as "St. Johns sore spot." As the ordinance was fished out of a pigeon hole, Ald. Norton rose to his feet, Ald. Raser crossed his fingers and winked knowingly. The other members smiled a sickly smile and waited for the anticipated pyrotechnics. They were doomed to disappointment. Everything was tranguil as a summer sea.

Ald. Norion believed the proposed tax was just. The telephone company wanted a valuable franchise free for ten years. After that period had elapsed they would be willing to pay a pittance. He was not legislating ten years ahead. The city treasury is empty and the money is needed now. Interested parties had seen certain persons ahd——

Ald. Raser here interupted with "Why don't you go and see them?"

"I am not peddling franchises," retorted Ald. Norton, "and I might add that the trouble is that too many of you have seen him."

The telephone company's champion did not answer.

Ald. Norton then made a motion to amend the proposed ordinance by taxing the poles at 12 cents each and the wires at 9 cents a mile, but it did not receive a second.

Ald. Raser then moved to lay the ordinance on the table. The motion was seconded by Ald. Walker. The vote was a tie. Alds. Norton, Dobie and Hewitt voting nay, and. Alds. Raser, Walker and Bredeen aye. Mayor Hinman voted in the affirmative, and the cause of the contention was tossed back into the pigeon hole.

A communication was received from the saloon men of the city asking for the privelege of paying for their liquor licenses semi-annually or quarterly. The matter will come up at the meetiag next Tuesday night.

A communication from the chief of police was read in regard to the blocking of Bradford street by teams that are loading slabwood on to the cars. It was learned that loaded wagons are also left close to the cars, which prevents the use of the street by teamsters, and are the cause of considerable complaint. In addition to the above the railroad company has removed the planking along this street, and its condition is well nigh impassable. The matter was referred to the city attorney, who will instruct the chief of police as to his duty in the matter.

The improvements on Hayes street from Burlington to Chicago were accepted and warrants ordered drawn for the same.

The bill of Elliott & Scroggins for $12.50 for locating and surveying the site of the new city hall was rejected. Bill of J. E. Davis for $3.50 for rent of safe was allowed.

On motion of Ald. Norton of the finance committee the recorder and treasurer were instructed to have their reports ready to be read at the next regular meeting as basis for the 1907 tax levy.

On motion of Ald. Hewiit the plat of Richmond street through the Caples tract, from Willis Boulevard to Columbia Boulevard, as approved by W. W. Goodrich, was accepted.

Platforms 60 feet long were ordered built on each side of the car track in front of Bickner's store with cross walks leading to the sidewalks.

The matter of the woolen mill sewer and its condition wrs referred to the health and police officers.

On motion of Ald. Raser an amendment to the dray ordinance that will permit of the taxing of all vehicles used for delivery or other hauling purposes was ordered, the from this source to be used to be for the purpose of repairing the streets.

Ald; Dobie reported the improvement of Oswego street about completed, and its acceptance was laid over for a week.

Alds. Bredeen and Raser were appointed a committee to investigate and report upon a location of a public dumping ground.

After a brief discussion of the improvements on Allegheny street the meeting adjourned.

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